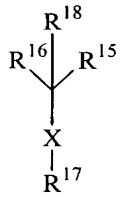
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-34: (Canceled).

35. (New): A compound represented by the formula (3):



(3)

wherein

R^{15} represents a substituted pyridyl group,

R^{16} represents a C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have at least one substituent,

R^{17} represents a C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have at least one substituent,

R^{18} represents a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-6} alkyl group, and

X represents -S-, -SO- or $-SO_2-$;

or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

36. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein R^{15} represents a substituted pyridyl group; or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

37. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein

R^{16} represents a phenyl group which may have at least one substituent, and

R^{17} represents a C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon group which may have at least one substituent,

or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

38. (New): The compound of Claim 37, wherein R^{15} represents a substituted pyridyl group; or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

39 (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein X represents $-SO_2-$; or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

40. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein the aromatic hydrocarbon group represented by R^{16} or R^{17} is monocylic or polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon group or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

41. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein the substituent for R^{15}, R^{16}, or R^{17} is at least one group represented by the formula $-Q^{201}-Q^{202}-Q^{203}-Q^{204}-Q^{205}-Q^{206}-Q^{207}$, wherein

Q^{201} represents a single bond, an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms or a heterocyclic group;

Q^{202} represents a single bond, -O-, -NH-, -CH=-N-, -C(alkyl)=N-, -N(alkyl)- or -S-;

Q^{203} represents a single bond, -CO-, -CS-, -SO-, $-SO_2-$ or -CONH-;

Q^{204} represents a single bond, an alkyl group from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group;

Q^{205} represents a single bond, -NH- or -N(alkyl)-;

Q^{206} represents a single bond, -O-, -CO-, -CS-, $-SO_2-$, -SO- or -S-; and

Q^{207} represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxy group, an oxo group, a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a C_{2-6} alkenyl group, a C_{3-8} cycloalkyl group, a C_{1-6} alkoxy group, a C_{2-6} alkenyloxy group, an azide group, a cyano group, an amino group, a C_{1-6} alkylamino group, a di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group, a C_{2-6} alkanoylamino group, a di(C_{2-6} alkanoy)amino group, a carboxyamino group, a C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino group, a di(C_{1-6} alkoxy)carbonylamino group, a heterocyclic group, an aromatic hydrocarbon group, a cycloalkenyl group, a heterocyclic oxy group, or an aromatic hydrocarbon-oxy group (wherein, the alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having from 2 to 6 carbon atoms, cycloalkyl group, cycloalkenyl group, heterocyclic group, heterocyclic-oxy group, aromatic hydrocarbon group or aromatic hydrocarbon-oxy group may be substituted with 1 to 3 substituents selected from halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{2-6} alkenyl groups, carboxyamino C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl groups, formyl group, C_{2-6} alkanoyl groups, oxo group, nitro group, cyano group, azide group, amidino group, C_{2-6} alkenyloxy groups, hydroxy group, carboxyl group, C_{7-16} aralkyl groups, thioxo group, C_{2-7} alkanoyl groups, C_{2-7} thioalkanoyl groups, thioformyl group, amino group, C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, carbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyl groups, thiocarbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylthiocarbamoyl groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)thiocarbamoyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbamoylamino groups, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbamoyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, C_{2-7} alkanoylamino groups, C_{2-7} alkanoyl (C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, thio C_{2-7} alkanoylamino groups, thio C_{2-7} alkanoyl (C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, formylamino group, formyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, thioformylamino group, thioformyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy groups, formyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyloxy groups, carbamoyloxy group, C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyloxy groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)carbamoyloxy groups, aminocarbonylamino group, (C_{1-6} alkyl)aminocarbonylamino groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminocarbonylamino groups, aminocarbonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups,

(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminocarbonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminocarbonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, mercapto group, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl groups, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups, aminosulfonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminosulfonyl groups, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylamino groups, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, aminosulfonylamino group, C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonylamino groups, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminosulfonylamino groups, aminosulfonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups, and di(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminosulfonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino groups;

or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

42. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein R^{16} and R^{17} may have 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen atoms, C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxy groups, C_{2-6} alkenyl groups, formyl group, C_{2-6} alkanoyl groups, carboxyl group, carboxyamino C_{1-6} alkyl groups, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl groups, oxo group, nitro group, cyano group, amidino group, C_{2-7} alkenyloxy groups, hydroxy group, thioxo group, amino group, C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, di C_{1-6} alkylamino groups, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl groups, carbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl groups, di C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl groups, thiocarbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylthiocarbamoyl groups, di C_{1-6} alkylthiocarbamoyl groups, mercapto group, C_{1-6} alkylthio groups, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl groups and C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl groups); and

R^{15} is substituted with a halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{2-6} alkenyl group, C_{2-6} alkenyloxy group, hydroxy group, carboxyl group, carboxy C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl-C_{2-6} alkenyl group, hydroxyl C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon-sulfonyl C_{1-6} alkyl group, heterocyclic-C_{1-6} alkylamino group, heterocyclic group, heterocyclic-C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14}

aromatic hydrocarbon group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon thio C_{1-6} alkyl group, azido-(C_{1-6} alkyl) group, amino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, di C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, hydroxyl C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-8} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, (hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl)(C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{2-6} alkanoylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon sulfonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, carbamoylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, N-alkylcarbamoylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, N,N-dialkylcarbamoylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, aminosulfonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, N-alkylsulfonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, N,N-dialkylsulfonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon C_{1-6} alkylamino group, heterocyclic C_{1-6} alkylamino group, carbamoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group, N-alkylcarbamoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group, N,N-dialkylcarbamoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyloxy-C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbonoxycarbonyloxy C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbonsulfonylamino-C_{1-6} alkanoylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkylamino group, amino C_{1-6} alkylamino group, C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkylamino group, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino C_{1-6} alkylamino group, carboxyamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, amino C_{1-6} alkylcarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, N-C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkylcarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, N,N-di C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkylcarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, heterocyclic carbonyl group, heterocyclic carbonylamino group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarboncarbonyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic carbonylamino group, heterocyclic C_{1-6} alkylcarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, heterocyclic C_{2-6} alkenylcarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbonalkenylcarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarboncarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, heterocyclic carbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxyoxalylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, carbamoyl group,

N-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, N,N-di C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-C_{3-8} cycloalkylcarbamoyl group, C_{3-8} cycloalkyl-C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, heterocyclic carbamoyl group, C_{1-6} aromatic carbamoyl group, heterocyclic carbonylhydrazonomethyl group, C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarboncarbonylhydrazonomethyl group, C_{1-6} alkylthio C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, hydroxyaminocarbonyl group, hydrazinocarbonyl group or N-C_{1-6} alkylhydrazinocarbonyl group, thioformylamino-C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon-thiocarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, thioformyl-(C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon-thiocarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, formylamino-C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon-carbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, formyl-C_{1-6} alkylamino-C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon-carbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkanoyl-heterocycle-carbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, di(C_{2-6} alkanoyl)amino(C_{1-6} alkyl) group, di(C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl)amino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkyl-heterocycle-carbonyl group, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxyaminocarbonyl group, (hydroxy)(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminocarbonyl group, (C_{1-6} alkoxy)(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminocarbonyl group, N'-C_{1-6} alkylhydrazinocarbonyl group, N',N'-di C_{1-6} alkylhydrazinocarbonyl group, N,N'-di C_{1-6} alkylhydrazinocarbonyl group, N,N',N'-tri C_{1-6} alkylhydrazinocarbonyl group, N'-(heterocycle-carbonyl)-hydrazinocarbonyl group, formyl group, hydroxyimino group, C_{1-6} alkoxyimino group, bis(C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alky)amino C_{1-6} alkyl group, hydroxy-C_{1-6} alkyl-heterocyclic group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-C_{1-6} alkyl-heterocyclic group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl-heterocyclic group, amino C_{1-6} alkyl-heterocyclic group, N-C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkyl-heterocyclic group, N,N-di C_{1-6} alkylamino C_{1-6} alkyl-heterocyclic group, hydroxy-heterocyclic group, C_{1-6} alkoxy-heterocyclic group, carboxy-C_{2-5} alkenyl group, or oxo group (wherein, the above-described C_{6-14} aromatic hydrocarbon group or heterocyclic group may be substituted with a halogen atom, C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxy group, C_{2-6} alkenyl group, formyl group, C_{2-6} alkanoyl group, carboxyl group, carboxyamino

C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonylamino C_{1-6} alkyl group, oxo group, nitro group, cyano group, amidino group, C_{2-6} alkenyloxy group, hydroxy group, thioxo group, amino group, C_{1-6} alkylamino group, di C_{1-6} alkylamino group, amino C_{1-6} alkyl group, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl group, carbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, di C_{1-6} alkylcarbamoyl group, thiocarbamoyl group, C_{1-6} alkylthiocarbamoyl group, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)thiocarbamoyl group, C_{2-7} alkanoylamino group, C_{2-7} alkanoyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group, thio(C_{2-7} alkanoyl)amino group, thio(C_{2-7} alkanoyl)(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group, formylamino group, formyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group, thioformylamino group, thioformyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group, C_{2-7} alkanoyloxy group, formyloxy group, mercapto group, C_{1-6} alkylthio group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl group, aminosulfonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylaminosulfonyl group, di(C_{1-6} alkyl)aminosulfonyl group, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylamino group or C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl(C_{1-6} alkyl)amino group);

or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

43. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein R^{17} represents a phenyl group which may have at least one substituent, or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

44. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein R^{18} represents a hydrogen atom, or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

45. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein

R^{17} represents a phenyl group which may have at least one substituent, and

R^{18} represents a hydrogen atom, or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

46. (New): The compound of Claim 35, wherein R^{15} represents an substituted pyridyl group, or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof.

47. (New): A method for treating a disease resulting from abnormal production or secretion of β-amyloid protein, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of Claim 35 to a subject in need thereof.

48. (New): A method for inhibiting the production or secretion of β-amyloid protein, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of Claim 35 to a subject in need thereof.

49. (New): A method for treating Alzheimer's disease, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of Claim 35.

50. (New): A method for treating Down syndrome, comprising administering an effective amount of the composition of Claim 35.

51. (New): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising the compound of Claim 35, or N-oxide or S-oxide of the compound, salt thereof, or solvate thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

52. (New): A method of preparing a medicament, comprising adding the compound of Claim 35, or an N-oxide or S-oxide of thereof; a salt thereof; or a solvate thereof, to a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.